

REMARKS

Claims 28-42 are pending. Claims 1-27 have been cancelled. Claims 28-42 are new. Claims 28, 30, 32, 36, and 40 are in independent form.

The Office Action Summary indicates that a certified copy of the priority document has not been received. Applicants submitted a certified copy of Swedish Patent Application No. 9702843-5 on March 2, 1999. Nevertheless, Applicants will request another copy and submit it when it is received.

The Office Action does not include an Examiner-initialed copy of PTO-1449, which was submitted as part of an Information Disclosure Statement on March 2, 1999. Applicants request that the Examiner indicate that all of the documents cited therein have been considered.

The Office Action includes a PTO-948. With this Amendment, Applicants are submitting new formal drawings. No new matter has been added. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected for indefiniteness. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 17 were rejected for anticipation by British Published Patent Application No. GB 2 125 253 by Latin et al. ("Latin"). Claim 3 was rejected for obviousness over Latin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,279 to Pepper et al. ("Pepper"). Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 16, 18-20, and 22-27 were rejected for obviousness over Latin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,715,521 to Fukasawa et al. ("Fukasawa"). Claim 4 was rejected for obviousness over Latin in view of Pepper and further in view of Fukasawa. These rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-27.

The following comments are offered in support of the patentability of new claims 28-42.

Claims 28 and 30 define a method of transferring an electrical digital signal. The steps include, among others, spreading the electrical digital signal and modulating the spread electrical signal on a subcarrier. None of the cited documents teach or suggest a modulating step following a spreading step as recited in the claims. Accordingly, claims 28 and 30 are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 29 and 31 depend from claims 28 or 30, respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reason as their respective base claim.

Claim 32 defines a method of transferring an electrical digital signal from a

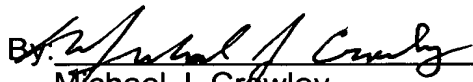
first terminal on an optical fiber network to a second terminal. The method includes modulating one of a control digital signal and an electrical digital signal on a radio frequency subcarrier, and modulating the other of the control digital signal and the electrical digital signal using a spread-spectrum method on a different radio frequency subcarrier. None of the cited documents teach or suggest a modulating the two digital signals using different modulation methods and at different radio frequencies as recited in the claim. Accordingly, claim 32 is allowable for at least this reason. Claims 33-35 depend from claim 32 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 36 and 40 define a network comprising at least two terminals connected by an optical fiber. The network includes spreading means to spread a first electrical digital signal to produce a spread signal and modulating means connected to the spreading means for receiving the spread signal and arranged to modulate the spread signal. None of the cited documents teach or suggest spreading means and modulating means arranged as recited in the claims. Accordingly, claims 36 and 40 are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 37-39 and 41-42 depend from claim 36 or claim 40, respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reason as their respective base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance, and respectfully request notice thereof at an early date. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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